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American School
of Classical Studies
at Athens

EXCAVATIONS AT CORINTH IN 1905

PRELIMINARY REPORT

[PLATE V]

THE excavations on the site of ancient Corinth carried on in 1905 by the American School began on July 4 and were continued until August 20. First, the road leading in from the west (*Am. J. Arch.* VIII, pl. vii) was shifted and a broad space, to the east and north of "Glaucé," as shown in the accompanying sketch-plan (Fig. 1), was cleared, with the following results. The whole precinct seems to have been originally a quarry, marks of the quarry cuttings appearing at various places (A on the Plan).

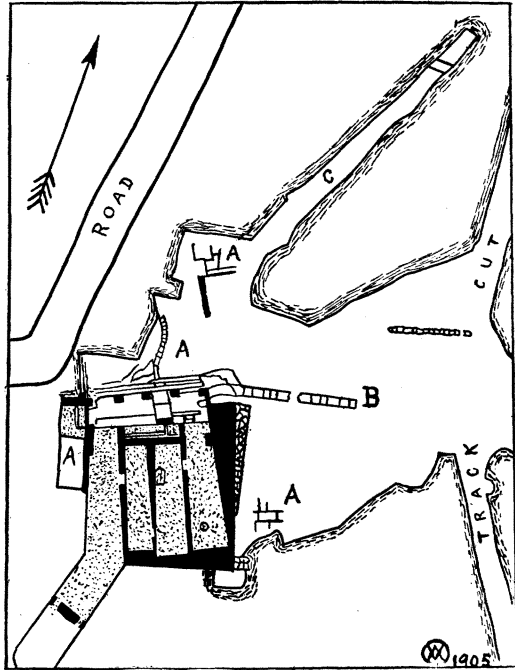


FIGURE 1. — SKETCH-PLAN OF THE EXCAVATIONS IN CORINTH IN 1905.

Immediately above the rock was a thick layer of quarry rubbish, from the top of which were gathered sherds of

what may well be a local pottery, dating somewhat later than the "Old Corinthian" fabric, and characterized by the copious use of garlands of palmettes; of a black-painted ware, and of *terra sigillata*. In the same stratum an obsidian blade was also found. To the north of the wall marked B there was evidently in antiquity a public square, for on top of the quarry rubbish was found a series of successive Greek pavements, one of which was followed by the Trench C, dug to the northeast until it ended in the natural rock, which here reaches a higher level. Immediately in front of Glaucé these pavements had been broken through in Roman times for the laying of water-conduits. A little to the east of the track cut was found a hoard of Byzantine copper coins.

We had hoped, in attempting this digging in the neighborhood of Glaucé, to find traces of an ancient road leading from the Agora toward Sicyon, but were disappointed. Such a road, if it ever existed, must still lie buried closer to the temple. If it can be found in some later campaign, the hypothesis that the temple on the hill and the rock-cut reservoir are respectively the Temple of Apollo and the Spring of Glaucé will rest on a broader basis than is now the case.

A short distance north of the northern limit of excavation of 1903, on the line of the Greek wall (*Am. J. Arch.* VIII, pl. xvii, B), were found remains of what appears to be a prostyle tetrastyle portico on the east side of the wall in question. A part of the column at the southeast corner was still *in situ*, although badly damaged. In front of the portico was a pavement.

Before the work described above was entirely completed most of the force of workmen had been transferred to the field south of the "South" Stoa, it being deemed advisable to make assurance doubly sure by laying bare a considerable portion of what previous excavation had led us to call the Agora, since some people were still found who seemed inclined to question the correctness of that designation. The accompanying PLATE V gives the final result of this part of the season's

work. Very few walls of any period were found here, those that were unearthed being near the surface. But on getting down about 5 m., pavements of crushed stone began to appear, forming successive strata, which mark the general levels of the Agora at successive Hellenistic and Roman periods. Except for the foot of a colossal figure, probably forming a part of the group published in this *Journal* (VII, pp. 7-22, and pls. i-iv), there were no single finds here deserving of special mention.

Trial trenches were sunk in several places. In the expropriated land southwest of A in the sketch-plan of 1904 (*ibid.* VIII, pl. xvii) numerous pre-Mycenaeen sherds were found at a depth of 4.50 m. (*ibid.* VIII, p. 440), while 1.50 m. farther down virgin soil was reached with no additional results.

A trench dug in land belonging to J. Giampourannes showed that the Stoa on the south side of the Agora, a part of which was uncovered last year, did not extend west across the road, but ended beneath it. By tunnelling from the east the stylobate of the Stoa was found with two drums of a column *in situ* upon it, thus confirming the deductions made in last year's report. In the excavation journal, under date of August 8, Dr. Heermance wrote: "Back of the column is a stylobate, or a foundation with step to the west. The conclusion is obvious that the Stoa was prostyle, not *ἐν παραστάσι*. Whether the Stoa along the west end of the Agora was columnar or not is uncertain."

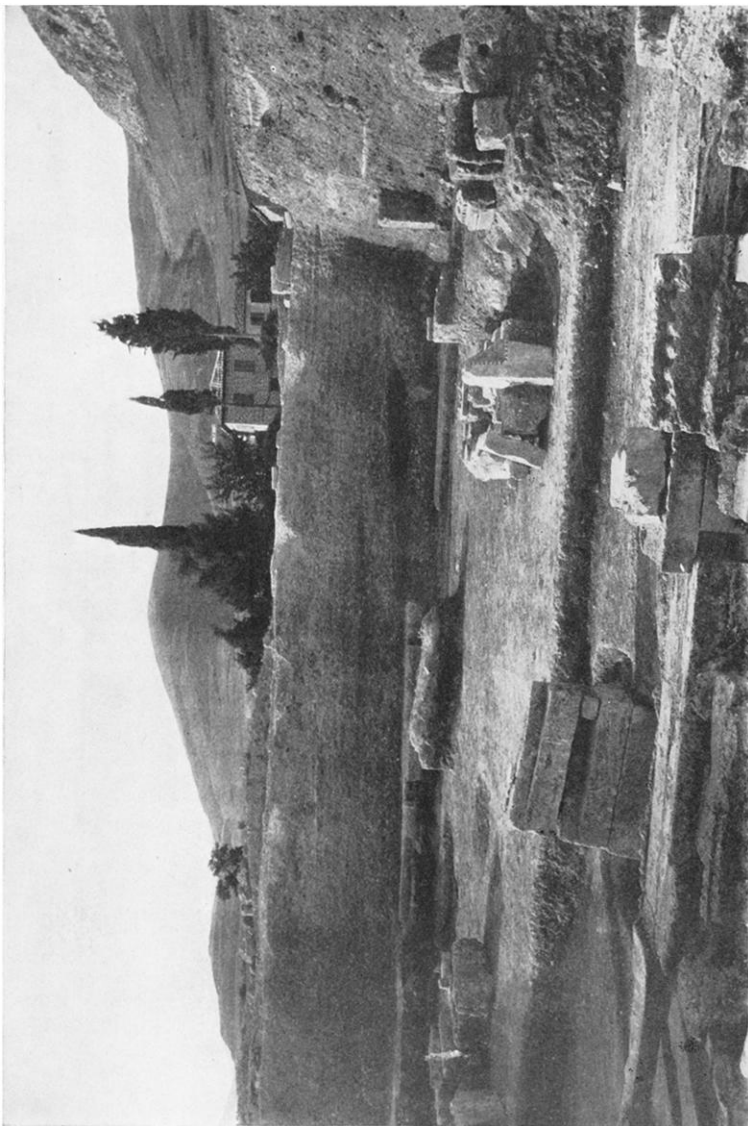
It remains to mention a trench opened and afterward filled up in the field of E. Sakellariou at the foot of Akro-Corinth, near the spring of Hadji Mustapha. In this neighborhood virgin soil is reached at a depth of about 3.50 m. One of the numberless water channels of Old Corinth was found and numerous vase fragments, none older than Proto-Corinthian; also three large, undecorated amphorae and, at a depth of 2.5 m. below the modern surface, a floor-level with excellent pebble mosaic.

After the completion of the season's work at Corinth a successful attempt was made to locate the place of deposit of the

well-known votive tablets to Poseidon, most of which are now in the Berlin Museum. It was situated northwest of the citadel of Pente Skuphia, about an hour's ride from Old Corinth in the direction of "Tria Spitia." Six men were able to dig the site anew in three days, during which 350 fragments of the *pinakes*, mostly worthless from the severe weathering they had received, and numerous fragments of Proto-Corinthian and Old Corinthian vases, as well as one or two archaic terra-cottas were found. It is my intention to send in before the end of the year for publication a paper dealing especially with these finds from Pente Skuphia.

O. M. WASHBURN, *Fellow of the School.*

ATHENS, GREECE,
November, 1905.



EXCAVATION AREA AT CORINTH IN 1905